DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 287 311 FL 016 967

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TITLE The "English-Only" Movement: A Selected Bibliography.
INSTITUTION REFORMA: National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish-Speaking.
PUB DATE 87
NOTE 21p.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Activism; Bilingualism; *English; Ethnic Groups; *Federal Legislation; *Language Planning; Language Role; Literacy; Monolingualism; *Official Languages; Policy Formation; Political Influences; *Public Policy; *State Legislation
IDENTIFIERS *English Only Movement

ABSTRACT

Over 200 news items, journal articles, position papers, and other citations concerning the issue of English as the official language of the United States are included in this bibliography. While information on state and federal legislative efforts is presented, testimony of congressional hearings is kept to a minimum, as are unpublished manuscripts. A list of key organizations in the debate, with addresses, is included. (MSE)

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THE 'ENGLISH-ONLY' MOVEMENT
A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

By

Salvador Guerena

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REFORMA

National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish Speaking

Santa Barbara, California

1987

INTRODUCTION

A preliminary version of this bibliography was first distributed in November 1986 at California REFORMA's panel program "English As The Official Language" which was held in Long Beach at the 88th Annual Conference of the California Library Association. It was also distributed to the membership of national REFORMA. A selected version is being distributed at the President's Program of the 1987 Annual Conference of the American Library Association.

The issue of English as the official language has been one of great concern to REFORMA. An active movement to amend the Constitution to make English the official language of the U.S. has been led by several national organizations which include U.S. English, based in Washington D.C. and English First, located in Falls Church, Virginia. It is noteworthy that the American Library Association has adopted a policy stand against such federal legislation. A resolution has also been adopted by the California Library Association, which declared the provision of library services, programs, and materials in languages other than English to be a valid and essential community service.

Seven states have enacted such legislation. These include California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Nebraska and Virginia. There have been efforts to enact similar legislation in at least fifteen other states such as Florida, New York and Texas.

The English-only movement has been motivated by a number of factors including concern over immigration and the increasing Latino presence in this country. The public policy implications of such legislation are many, affecting the provision of bilingual education programs, bilingual ballots and government services in languages other than English. It is rapidly becoming a controversial issue.

Major national organizations such as the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Council of La Raza and research centers such as the Tomas Rivera Center's National Institute for Policy Studies have produced analyses on this important topic and have sought to identify principles which would produce a language policy based on equity.

The following bibliography, while unannotated, is an attempt to disseminate information on this topic published in various formats including news items, journal articles and position papers. The bibliographic entries are as complete as possible. In a very few cases items may show incomplete data since full bibliographic information was not included in some of the contributed materials. Unpublished manuscripts or testimony of congressional hearings were kept to a minimum.

For more information on this issue the addresses of some of the key organizations are provided covering both sides of the debate.

-Pro-

English First
5881 Leesburg Pike, Suite 204
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

U.S. English
1424 16th Street, N.W., Suite 714
Washington, D.C. 20036

-Con-

League of United Latin American Citizens
400 First Street, N.W.
Suite 721
Washington, D.C. 20001

National Council of La Raza
20 F Street, N.W.
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

-Policy Analysis-

The Tomas Rivera Center
A National Institute for Policy Studies
710 North College Avenue
Claremont, California 91711

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